

Poster

THE “PERMANENT CROP CLINIC PROGRAMME” IN SRI LANKA: MAKING USE OF DATA TO RESOLVE CROP HEALTH PROBLEMS.

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ABSTRACT

“Permanent Crop Clinic” (PCC) concept has been introduced to Sri Lanka in 2009 as a pilot project in selected districts. With promising results, Department of Agriculture decided to expand the program throughout the island from 2012 onwards. The main objective of the PCC is to provide better advice on pest management to farmers when their crops are ill, especially focusing on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. PCC are conducted by Plant specialists (Agriculture Instructors) at permanent places, and the date and time of the clinic will be informed to farmers through posters, SMS, and at farmer organization meetings. At the PCC, the plant specialist makes a diagnosis after observing a sample brought by farmers and the farmer will receive a written prescription. A copy of the prescription is sent to the plant protection service of DOA and data management staff upload its content onto the Plant wise online data management system to develop a database from which researchers, extensionists and policy makers can draw information on the crop pest situation in Sri Lanka. The data base also allow program managers to monitor activities and identify training needs while plant specialist can increase their knowledge and the quality of diagnoses and advices could be improved further.